



JOSHUA CHAPTER 3 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- Would you characterize yourself as a person who usually likes challenges? Why or why not?
- What's one of the biggest obstacles you have ever overcome? How did you do it?
- **Opening Prayer**
 - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you must get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Read the Story (Joshua 3:1-17)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Joshua 3:1-6

- What is significant about God having the nation of Israel wait for three days (Joshua 1:11) by the shores of the Jordan River?
 - During that entire three days, the Israelites would have witnessed the Jordan River rushing, swelling, and overflowing, a river that they knew they were supposed to cross with scores of people and belongings. They undoubtedly had questions and fears about if and how they were supposed to cross the Jordan River, given the conditions.

- Put yourself in the place of the Israelites. What would you have been thinking, saying, and doing?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
 - What is one obstacle that you are currently facing that you really have no clue about what God is going to do and/or how God is going to get you through it?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

- What is interesting about who Joshua instructs to lead the way before the Israelites and what does this say about Joshua and his understanding of the mission?
 - The fact that Joshua instructs the priests to lead the way rather than trained or skilled fighters indicates that Joshua understands that crossing the Jordan River and entering the Promised Land is going to primarily be about following God's lead and relying on His power rather than their own power, skill, or might.
 - In what ways are you attempting to use your own wisdom and skill to face issues/problems that are spiritual in nature?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

- Notice in verse 5 that Joshua tells the people that they need to consecrate themselves (set themselves apart) since the Lord will be doing wonders among them.
 - In what ways do you prepare yourself to hear from the Lord? In what ways do you prepare yourself to see situations and people like the Lord does?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Joshua 3:7-13

- Notice that although God tells Joshua that He will exalt him in the sight of all Israel, Joshua points the people back to God in his instructions to them. What does this indicate about Joshua's leadership?

- Joshua wasn't allowing his ego to get in the way of what God was calling His people to do and Joshua didn't allow his ego to get in the way of the mission that they had.
 - In what ways do you need to shelve your ego to more fully live for God and carry out His mission?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Joshua 3:14-17

- Notice that God didn't cause the waters to rise in a heap before the feet of the priests were dipped into water that was swelling and rushing. What is one of the things that this fact indicates about God?
 - God desires that His people take steps of faith to claim His promises. While His power is going to change, transform, redeem, and so much more, His people must be willing to take steps into what He has for them.
 - In what ways do you need to be more willing to take steps into what God has invited you into? What's holding you back?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time

- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Joshua chapter 4)

JOSHUA CHAPTER 3 (STUDENT)

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Joshua 3:1-6

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 - Put yourself in the place of the Israelites. What would you have been thinking, saying, and doing?
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